Vol VIII. Numb. 6

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Case of the Fishery of Scotland *farther consider'd; with a particular Account of its Decrease since* 1707, *and the Consequence it may have upon the Decay of the Trade and Mariners of* Great Britain, *and in hightning the Discontents in that Nation, if not speedily provided against.*

From Wednesday, February 16. to Saturday, February 19. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter for you, Master, with the Case of the Exporters of Herrings, and other Fish, and of Beef and Pork from *Scotland*, since the first of *May*, 1707. at large. Pray let's discourse upon it; for I find, that not only the *Scots* Merchants, Gentlemen, and Members of Parliament here, are very much dissatisfy'd, but also their Royal Burroughs at Home, which, they tell me, is a very Great and well-form'd Society, endow'd with large Priviledges; nay, they say, Royalties equal almost to those of the Hanse-Towns in the Empire; so that if they be deny'd any Thing to which they have a Right, 'tis like to encreate Discontents in the united Kingdom, which, at this Juncture, may have ill Consequences; for when People are fretted with Disappointments, and depriv'd of their usual Way of living, they are apt to fall in with any Measures, how impolitick and unjust soever, by which they think they may have Ease; therefore I hope this Matter will be duly consider'd and weigh'd, and that the *Scots* will have Justice done them.

Obs. I hope so too, *Roger*; for those who are Enemies to our Peace, and favour the Pretender's Interest, will be sure to improve all Causes of Discontent, and I think that we have too many such; and that their Boldness encreases, is plain from our late 30th of *January* Sermons, so many of which strike at the very Root of our Constitution. But pray read the chief Things in the Case of the *Scotch* Merchants, *Roger*.

Country-m. They say, Master, 'That the People 'of *Scotland* came into the Union upon Assurance, 'that all ancient Distinctions should be remov'd; 'that as tender a Regard should be had to the Peo-'ple of *Scotland*, as to those of *England*; and that 'the Concessions granted in Favour of the former, 'for many important Reasons, should have been 'made good with such Easiness and Readiness, as 'might have demonstrated the good Fruits of a 'solid Union of Minds and Interests; that if any 'Cause of Doubt had occurr'd, the Treaty should 'have rather been favourably interpreted, than re-'strain'd; and that they make no Question when 'this Matter is fairly stated and examin'd in Parli-'ament, Things will be set to Rights.

Obs. I make no Question, *Roger*, but the Parliament will do them Justice; and that since the Government has thought the Union of such Consequence, as to oblige some of the *Scotch* Lords who promoted it, with large Pensions on a Branch of the Revenue, the united Parliament will have so much Regard to the Traders of *Scotland*, as not to suffer them to be deny'd any Thing that may appear to be their Right, on Pretence of any small Damage that may accrue by it to the Revenue, which the *Scots* Merchants seem to think can be none; but allowing it to be so, that ought to have been taken Care of before the Union was concluded; and one would think, should rather be made up by good Husbandry, or otherwise, than by any Thing that looks like an Infraction upon the Articles of the Treaty; for tho' there can be no Limits set to a Sovereign Power, such as that of the Queen and Parliament, in ordinary Cases, yet where a Law has been made upon the Foot of a Treaty betwixt two independent Nations, join'd in one by an Union, it would seem, in Equity, that the Articles of such a Treaty are of a more high and transcendant Nature, than ordinary Laws, which may be alter'd, explain'd, or repeal'd, as the Queen and Parliament find convenient for the Good of the Nation. We have always pleaded in Behalf of our own *Magna Charta*, Petitions of Right, and Instruments of Government, that being a fundamental Constitution, they ought not to be alter'd, without Instructions from the Majority of the Electors; so that in this Case, by Parity of Reason, it would seem the Articles ought not to be alter'd or explain'd, except by the same Authority they were enacted; which was the joint Authority of both Nations, according to that known and reasonable Maxim, *Cujus est condere ejus est explicare, i. e.* They who made the Law, have only a Right to explain it. I know the contrary of this has been asserted by the *Rehearser*, and others, who are Enemies to the Union, because it has settl'd the Protestant Succession, and made the Church of *Scotland* unalterable; but with how little Reason, I think has been made evident.

Country-m. I am of your Opinion, Master. But I go on with the Complaints of the *Scots*. They say, 'That tho' by the 4th Article of the Treaty, all 'the Subjects of *Great Britain*, from and after the U-'nion, should have full Freedom and Intercourse 'of Trade and Navigation, to and from any Port 'or Place within the said united Kingdom, and 'that there should be a Communication of all o-'ther Rights and Advantages; and that notwith-'standing, that by the 6th Article of the Union, 'all Parts of the united Kingdom should have the 'same Allowances, Encouragements, and Draw-'backs; and that those settl'd in *England*, when 'the Union commences, shall, from and after the 'Union, take Place; and especially, that accord-'ing to the 8th Article, all Fish exported from '*Scotland* beyond Sea, cur'd with foreign Salt on-'ly, without a Mixture of *British* or *Irish*, shall 'have the same Ease, Premiums, and Drawbacks, 'as are, or shall be allow'd to Exporters of the like 'Fish from *England*; yet the *English* Exporters have 'been readily paid the Premiums, tho' their Fish 'have been cur'd with *English* Salt, or at least with 'a Mixture of it; whereas the *Scots* have been con-'stantly deny'd those Payments, or so much as 'Debentures at Exportation of Fish taken and 'cur'd in *Scotland*, with foreign Salt, which pays 'a higher Duty than *English* Salt.

Obs. I am sorry for such Complaints, *Roger*. The Union has cost both Nations too much, but particularly *England*, to suffer it to be any Way intrench'd upon, because of the private Views of particular Persons, which certainly ought to give Place to the common Good of the Island; so that we have no Reason to doubt, but the Parliament will take all due Care to examine the Pretensions of those who oppose the Demands of the *Scots*, and to prevent the Designs of such Men, if there be any such who would willingly have it broke, because they are apprehensive, that it will thwart their arbitrary Principles and selfish Passions. But go on with the Complaints of the *Scots*, *Roger*.

Country-m.

Country-m. They ſay, Maſter, 'That which is yet 'more ſurprizing, is, that notwithſtanding it is 'provided by the 8th Article, for the Encouragement of the Herring-Fiſhing, that there ſhall be 'allow'd 10 *s.* 5 *d.* Sterling, for every Barrel of 'white Herrings exported from *Scotland*, and 5 *s.* 'for every Barrel of Beef or Pork ſalted as above; 'and notwithſtanding the Act of Parliament in *Eng-* 'land, made the 5th Year of her Majeſty, that in 'Conſideration of Conceſſions made by the Arti-'cles of Union to the *Scots*, for exporting white 'Herrings, Beef, and Pork, there ſhall be the like 'Allowances paid by the Officer appointed to col-'lect the Salt-Duties, for all white Herrings, and 'for every Barrel of Beef and Pork, as are to be 'made upon Exportation from *Scotland*, yet the '*Scots* have not been able to obtain the leaſt Satis-'faction upon that Article, but the Allowances 'have been conſtantly refus'd them, tho' the *Eng-* 'liſh Exporters have always had it, according to 'that Statute; which was made only in Conſide-'ration of the like Allowances granted by the U-'nion to the Subjects of *Scotland*.

This, they ſay, Maſter, 'has had very bad Con-'ſequences already; for by an Account of their 'Fiſhing ſince the Union, return'd to the Royal 'Burroughs of *Scotland*, purſuant to an Act of 'their Convention, it appears, that whereas in an 'ordinary Year, even during the War, there us'd 'to be cur'd and exported in *Scotland* 4000 Laſt of 'white Herring before the Union, ſince the 1ſt of '*May*, 1707. till *January* laſt, which takes in the 'Fiſhing Seaſons of two Years, there has only been 'cur'd with foreign Salt 3802 Laſts, and 11 Barrels.

Obſ. I am ſorry to hear, *Roger*, that they have not taken ſo many in two Years ſince the Union, as they did in one before. That Account being tranſmitted by the Royal Burroughs of that Country, I doubt not is juſt; and ſince they are moſt concern'd in the Fiſhing, and other Trade of that Nation, they will certainly be moſt ſenſible of the Decay of it; and having a Power, by their Conſtitution, to meet twice *per Ann.* or oftner, in a Convention, their Diſcontents will ſpeedily diffuſe themſelves thro' the Nation; to prevent which, we are not to doubt, but the Parliament will have a juſt Regard to the Petition of the Royal Burroughs, laid before them for a Redreſs in this Caſe; for conſidering the great Power and Priviledges of thoſe Burroughs which are confirm'd to them by the Union, and the great Encreaſe of Wealth and Strength that muſt accrue to *Great Britain* by the *Scotch* Fiſhery, which is the beſt of the known World, if duly improv'd, there can be no Reaſon that the private Views of particular Traders, or other Perſons, ſhould ſtand in Competition with the Wealth and Strength of the whole Iſland, now united for ever under one Government.

Country-m. They ſay farther, Maſter, 'That laſt 'Year, tho' there never offer'd a more plentiful 'Fiſhing, the People had no Heart to improve it, 'the Price of Salt is riſen ſo high, which makes 'the firſt Expence of curing Fiſh far greater than 'it was, tho' in foreign Markets Herring yield no 'more than they us'd to do; which alienates the 'Peoples Minds from Fiſhing, becauſe it becomes 'more burthenſome, ſince the Encouragements they 'flatter'd themſelves with, are utterly deny'd them; 'by which the People are grown univerſally un-'eaſy. Their Fiſhing has receiv'd ſo great a Check, 'as in many Years it cannot recover; and inſtead 'of an Increaſe of Fiſher-men and Sea-men, and of 'Trade and People, which were propos'd as the hap-'py Conſequences of the Union, by the 15th Arti-'cle; they are all decreas'd, and muſt ſtill decreaſe 'more, unleſs the Parliament, by their Great Wiſdom, 'provide a ſuitable Relief both for Time paſt and 'to come.

Obſ. I have heard ſome *Scots* Gentlemen ſay, *Roger*, that they doubted not of having had Juſtice done them laſt Year by the Parliament, had not ſome People ſilly prevented it; therefore we are not to doubt but they will have Juſtice done them now, and that the Queen, Lords, and Commons will take all poſſible Meaſures to make the *Scots* eaſy, and quell the *Jacobites* there, who are grown very inſolent; and according to freſh Letters from thence, expreſs their Hopes of a powerful Invaſion of 18000 Men from *France*; which, tho' I doubt not have more of a Chimæra, than Solidity, as to the Number, yet it is our Intereſt to be provided againſt Enemies from Abroad and at Home, and to remove all real Cauſes of Diſcontent, which may encreaſe the Number of the latter.

Advertiſements.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Sintelaer, Practitioner in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone found 6 d, together 3 s. 6d. Sold by R. Goſling at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet; W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Ribotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ Melius Inquirendum, or a freſh Enquiry into St. Paul's Behaviour toward the Civil Magiſtrate. A Sermon on the ſolemn Day of Faſting and Humiliation for the execrable Murder of Charles the Martyr, of bleſſed Memory. At the Pariſh Church of St. Ethelburga, January the 31ſt, 1709. By Luke Milbourne, a Preſbyter of the Church of England. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. price 2d.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Chriſtian's Gazette, or News chiefly reſpecting the Inviſible World; Being a Pacquet for the Pious Virtuoſi, on Subjects never ſtarted before, viz. 1. The Celeſtial Court, or News concerning that Inviſible World we ſhould correſpond with. 2. The Saints in Heaven will be eternally making new Diſcoveries. 3. The Viſible World is nothing elſe but the diſclos'd Image of an occult Deity. 4. The Language of Angels, or the manner how they diſcourſe with God, and one another. 5. No Man ſhall know his Father, Brother, or Wife, in Heaven, as is generally believed. 6. A good Man might live inviſible to all the World but himſelf; with a late inſtance of it in Mr. Welby. 7. There will be a new Sun, Moon and Stars. 8. Proxy-Marriage, or an Eſſay on that Princely cuſtom of Courting by Pictures, and Marrying by Subſtitutes. 9. Due Benevolence modeſtly ſtated, in a Letter to Madam---who denies to her Huſband the Lawful Uſe of the Marriage-Bed. 10. Death-Bed-Charity, or Alms, and no Alms, a Paradox, proving Madam J---N-- giving 50 l. a Year to the Poor of St. A--- was no Charity, but (as ſhe vainly thought) a ſort of compounding with God Almighty, for her giving nothing to the Poor in her Life-time. To which is added, A Copy of her unjuſt and ridiculous Will, with a Paraphraſe upon each Legacy, (but more eſpecially upon that of bequeathing her Soul to Almighty God.) The whole being Serious Reflections on the Life and Death of that ſcraping and uſeleſs Miſer, Madam J--N---and upon the Panegyrick-Sermon, preach'd at her Funeral by Dr. C-- of S. A--- Written by the Author of the late Eſſay, entitled, The Hazard of a Death-Bed Repentance. Price 1 s. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at Large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

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